



1301 Jack Warner Parkway N.E., Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404  
Telephone: 205-462-4500

# *Taylor Hardin Times* **JULY 2020**

## **WELCOME DR. VIRGINIA SCOTT-ADAMS - DIRECTOR OF FORENSIC SERVICES FOR THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

We are so excited to begin working with Dr. Scott-Adams and can't wait to see the ideas and leadership she will bring to Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility!

Here's a word from Dr. Scott-Adams:

I am a Licensed Psychologist and began my career working in various inpatient hospital settings, including serving as the Chief Psychologist on the Adolescent Unit and a Behavioral Rehabilitation Unit at Bryce Hospital. I have also served as the Program Director and Psychologist at a secure residential facility certified through the Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS). Prior to serving in my current position, I worked as a Deputy Director for the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities in New York State where I oversaw clinical services (Nursing and Health Care Services, Nutrition, Psychology, Behavioral Health, and Outpatient Clinic Services) delivered across the state operated and voluntary sectors, secure facilities through group homes. I have extensive experience working in secure facilities and corrections with people who have interfaced with the legal system and who are in need of psychiatric care. Areas that I have focused on in my career include organizational/ program improvement and reform, trauma informed care, suicide intervention and prevention, gang intervention and prevention, and restraint reduction. I also specialize in psychological evaluations and diagnostics.

I am delighted to serve as your Director of Forensic Services for the Alabama Department of Mental Health. My job is to oversee, supervise, and coordinate our forensic system of care; inpatient care, outpatient services, and community based programs. We will continue to coordinate and arrange for quality care so that patients can access appropriate evaluations and treatment that meets their needs while ensuring safety and efficiency. I am committed to serving the people of the Great State of Alabama, the patients served by the ADMH, and their families. I also look forward to working with and leading the many talented people who work in forensic services throughout the state.

On a personal note, outside of work I am a beekeeper. I keep many hives and am able to pull about 700 pounds of honey a year. I am able to use the beeswax to make goods such as lip balms, lotions, and soap. I also love SEC football and am an Alabama fan! Roll Tide!

## **JULY HOLIDAYS**

July 4th - Independence Day

July 5th - Asalha Puja

July 9th - Nunavat Day

July 18th - Nelson Mandela International Day

July 26th - National Parents' Day

July 29th - Day of Arafah



## ADVOCATES CORNER | JULY 2020

This month the Advocate's Corner is looking at the patient's right to complain. If a patient feels that their rights have been or are being violated during their hospitalization at Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility (THSMF), they should notify staff. Patient abuse complaints should be reported to THSMF Security Services by asking for an officer to be called to their unit. The patient has the right to make a complaint without reprisal or the threat of retaliation. This right is afforded by state and federal laws and cannot be restricted or limited under any circumstance.

A patient should generally make an effort to resolve their concerns informally by contacting verbally any facility employee who they believe can assist them. If a patient feels that they have not been able to resolve the problem through discussion with staff members, they should contact the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Central Advocacy Office at 1-800-367-0955. The patient needs to explain to the Advocacy

Office which right they feel was violated and give the full details of the incident. After the facility advocate has completed investigation, the advocate will discuss their findings with the patient so they can decide if they want to go further with their complaint. A patient may appeal an advocate's findings to the DMH Central Advocacy Office. Complaints can also be submitted to the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP), the Tuscaloosa County Department of Human Resources, the Joint Commission, or a private attorney of choice.

## COVID-19 AND PATIENT CARE

All visitation to the Alabama Department of Mental Health treatment facilities will continue to be suspended to protect our patients from COVID-19. You may continue to maintain contact with your family member through telephone and mail communications until this crisis has subsided. You will be kept informed of your family's status and you may contact your relative's social worker if you have additional questions related to his status as consent allows.

All primary next-of-kin will be notified when visitation is able to be resumed. Your assistance with communicating this information to other family members/next-of-kin who may be approved for visitation would be much appreciated.

We want to assure our patient's families that our patient's care has not been disrupted during this time and they are continuing to receive services as they were prior to COVID-19.

## QUESTIONS?

**Have a question or comment about the newsletter?**  
**Contact Chloe Tilley by phone at 205-462-4543 or by email at [chloe.tilley@hardin.mh.alabama.gov](mailto:chloe.tilley@hardin.mh.alabama.gov). You can also mail in your questions to 1301 Jack Warner Parkway NE, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404.**

